

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method in a data processing system having a program, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a query for retrieving data stored in a repository, the query having a first information in a first format for identifying the data, the repository having a second information in a second format, different than the first format, for identifying the data, the first information being included in a metadata of a datatype having the metadata and a reference to the data;

10 mapping the first information to the second information;

translating the query to the second format based on the mapping; and

retrieving the data using the translated query.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein mapping the first information to the second  
15 information comprises retrieving the mapping from a plurality of mappings.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first information comprises a plurality of first information items and the second information comprises a plurality of second information items, and wherein mapping the first information to the second information  
20 comprises retrieving the mapping from a plurality of mappings in which the plurality of first information items corresponds to the plurality of second information items.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first information is a property identifier in the datatype.  
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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the second information is a source description.

6. A computer-readable medium containing instructions that cause a program in  
30 a data processing medium to perform a method comprising the steps of:

receiving a query for retrieving data stored in a repository, the query having a first information in a first format for identifying the data, the repository having a second information in a second format, different than the first format, for identifying the data, the

first information being included in a metadata of a datatype having the metadata and a reference to the data;

mapping the first information to the second information;

translating the query to the second format based on the mapping; and

5 retrieving the data using the translated query.

7. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, wherein mapping the first information to the second information comprises retrieving the mapping from a plurality of mappings.

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8. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, wherein the first information comprises a plurality of first information items and the second information comprises a plurality of second information items, and wherein mapping the first information to the second information comprises retrieving the mapping from a plurality of mappings in which  
15 the plurality of first information items corresponds to the plurality of second information items.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, wherein the first information is a property identifier in the datatype.

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10. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, wherein the second information is a source description.

11. A data processing system comprising:

25 a memory having a program that:

receives a query for retrieving data stored in a repository, the query having a first information in a first format for identifying the data, the repository having a second information in a second format, different than the first format, for identifying the data, the first information being included in a metadata of a datatype having the metadata and a  
30 reference to the data;

maps the first information to the second information;

translates the query to the second format based on the mapping, and

retrieves the data using the translated query; and

a processing unit that runs the program.

12. A data processing system comprising:

means for receiving a query for retrieving data stored in a repository, the query having a first information in a first format for identifying the data, the repository having a second information in a second format, different than the first format, for identifying the data, the first information being included in a metadata of a datatype having the metadata and a reference to the data;

means for mapping the first information to the second information;

means for translating the query to the second format based on the mapping; and

means for retrieving the data using the translated query.